

## Friendship Heights TMD Advisory Committee Meeting

Summary – Meeting of May 13, 2008

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### Voting Members Present

Bob Cope (Chair)	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
David Glass	Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers
Leonard Grant	Friendship Heights Village Council
Gregory Knoop	Oudens + Knoop Architects (Employer of fewer than 50)
N. Leslie Olson	Chevy Chase Land Company
Steven Robins, Esq.	Lerch, Early and Brewer, Representing Wisconsin Place
Carlean Russell	Saks Fifth Avenue (Employer of greater than 50)
Robert Schwarzbart	Friendship Heights Village Council
Jeffrey Slavin	Town of Somerset
R. Mallory Starr	Somerset House Management Association

### Non-Voting Members Present

Sandra L. Brecher	DPWT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services
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### TMD Staff Present

Jim Carlson	DPWT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services
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### Absent

Jessica Adams (Vice Chair)	The JBG Companies
Chief Roy Gordon	Chevy Chase Village Police
Capt. Russell Hamill	Montgomery County Police
Mary Herman	Polinger Shannon and Luchs (Employer of greater than 50)
Charles Kines	M-NCPPC
Kenneth Williams	GEICO

### Guests

William Farley	Town of Somerset
Leslie Hamm	B-CC Services Center
Bob Joiner	The Agenda News
Julian Mansfield	Village of Friendship Heights
William McCloskey	Brookdale Resident
Afua Ofori	for Mary Herman – Polinger Shannon and Luchs
Stephen Petrucci	WMATA
Barbara Tauben	Friendship Heights Village Civic Assn.

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### Items 1, 2, & 3 – Introductions, Review/Approval of Minutes, Chair's Comments:

Members and guests introduced themselves. The minutes from the April meeting were approved. **Chair Bob Cope** apologized for missing the April meeting.

**Item 4 – Bus Station Update:** **Stephen Petrucci**, Superintendent of Bus Operations, WMATA, updated the committee on bus station operations. With the completion of the ceiling renovation work, all buses are now able to use the station without restriction.

Internal regulations are in place to ensure that buses do not idle excessively. However, **Robert Schwarzbart** mentioned that he has seen several buses idling within the terminal. **Mr. Petruccelli** responded that they are allowed to idle within only 3 minutes of their departure, and once everything is up and running, supervisors will be there to cite drivers who idle excessively. That should stop this problem.

**Mr. Petruccelli** mentioned that WMATA is the only public transit organization in the country without dedicated funding. Therefore, the jurisdictions need to fund every expansion, every additional bus, etc. With the economy the way it is, jurisdictions are currently reluctant to provide additional monies. However, there are some changes currently being made, notably the 30's line. New buses will be hybrid electric diesels. Performance of these vehicles will improve as newer technologies are made available. Currently, the buses are getting around 6 or 7 miles per gallon, up from 3 MPG when they were first utilized. The compressed natural gas (CNG) buses also were around 3 MPG when first used.

Discussion ensued regarding attempting to grow the public transit systems, especially in response to the soaring gas prices. **Mr. Petruccelli** suggested that this committee use its influence to discuss these issues with local jurisdictions and Congress, as gas prices will not be decreasing, and the related issues that exist today will exist down the road.

**Item 5 – Taxi Stand Update:** **Jim Carlson** stated that he met with **Howard Benn**, Section Chief for Customer Operations and Support, and members of the Taxi Regulation Division to examine locations on Wisconsin Circle for the cab stand. Just in front of the Commuter Store is a 63 foot area that will accommodate three taxis. Different ideas were discussed as to how to stage the remaining taxis, but nothing has been finalized.

**Leslie Olson** stated her concern that the original plan of having two cabs in a 40 foot space had now changed to three cabs in a 60 foot space. **Ms. Olson** is primarily concerned about the taxis reducing the space in which regular cars can temporarily park in the Circle while frequenting the local businesses. **Mr. Cope** responded that parking in the Circle is not legal anyway, and that enforcement was the bigger issue. **Ms. Olson** believes also that taxis would be of particular concern during rush hour.

**Mr. Cope** asked if the committee should write a letter requesting that they reduce the number of taxis on the Circle to two, and if there was support around the table to prohibit the use of the Circle by taxis during rush hour. With only one vote in support of both of these items, the group moved to the next agenda item.

**Item 6 – Wisconsin Ave Pedestrian Safety:** **Mr. Cope** reiterated his desire to meet with both state and county representatives at the time of their site visit to evaluate the Wisconsin Avenue/Wisconsin Circle intersection. **Barbara Tauben**, President of the Friendship Heights Village Civic Assn., stated she would like develop a consensus with the TMD Advisory Committee in advance of the SHA site visit. **Ms. Tauben's** association has already compiled a list of discussion items, which was shared with the group in hard copy. **Mr. Cope** recommended that the committee consider adding any

discussion items to the list. **Ms. Tauben** reiterated that there needs to be some sort of agreement before the meeting with SHA takes place, and she suggested that only a limited number of committee members be present at that meeting.

**Item 7 – Other Business:** **Mr. Carlson** reminded the committee that Bike to Work Day is May 16th, and that the Annual Commuter Survey should be coming out in late May or early June. Additionally, a letter was submitted to **Council Member Nancy Floreen** recommending continued funding for the Friendship Heights Super Fare Share.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM

Next meeting date: June 10, 2008